Claim 4 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 wherein the effective pH of the composition is from 2.0 to 4.5.

Claim 5 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 wherein the acidic composition further comprises an [the] acidulant [comprises] which is citric acid, malic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, phosphoric acid, acetic acid or [mixture] a mixture thereof.

Claim 6 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 wherein the acidic composition further comprises [contains] a calcium compound such that calcium is present in the composition in an amount up to 0.8 mol per mol of acid.

Claim 7 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the calcium source is a soluble calcium salt.

Claim 8 (amended)[Use] The method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 wherein the acidic composition is a beverage or a liquid or solid concentrate for the preparation of a beverage.

Claim 9 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the beverage is a health drink.

Claim 10 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 wherein the acidic composition is an oral healthcare product.

Claim 11 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the beverage has a pH in the range 2.5 to 4.0.

Claim 12 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the beverage has a titratable acidity in the range 0.01 to 4%w/w.

Please add the following claims:

Claim 17. A process for reducing the tooth erosion potential of an acidic composition for oral use comprising adding a viscosity modulating polymer material, and optionally calcium in the range 0 to 0.8 mol per mol of acid, to an acidic oral composition and controlling the effective pH, if necessary or desired, to provide a composition with an effective pH less than or equal to 4.5.

Claim 18. A method of reducing tooth erosion caused by acid in orally administered compositions by orally administering a composition comprising a viscosity modulating polymer material and an acidulant, and optionally containing calcium in the range 0 to 0.8 mol per mol or acid, wherein the effective pH of the composition is less than or equal to 4.5.

Claim 19. A composition for oral use comprising an acidulant, a viscosity modulating polymer material and a calcium compound wherein calcium is present in the composition in an amount up to 0.8 mol per mol of acid and the effective pH of the composition is less than or equal to 4.5.

Claim 20. The composition as claimed in claim 19 wherein the viscosity modulating polymer is a complex polysaccharide material.

Claim 21. The composition as claimed in claim 20 wherein the complex polysaccharide material is an alginate, a xanthan or a pectin.

Claim 22. The composition as claimed in claim 19 wherein the effective pH of the composition is from 2.0 to 4.5.

Claim 23. The composition as claimed in claim 19 wherein the acidulant is citric acid, malic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, phosphoric acid, acetic acid or a mixture thereof.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made upon entry of International Application No. PCT/EP99/05423 into the U.S. national phase of prosecution.